



**Graf Chapel  
rocks dads,  
daughters**  
page 4



**Vilseck  
brigade  
deploys  
to Iraq**  
pages 8-9



**At the  
movies**  
page 16

# TRAINING TIMES

Vol. 25 No. 3

Serving the 100th Area Support Group communities of Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels and Vilseck

Feb. 17 - Mar. 1, 2004



**Giving something back**

page 4

**New tool to help  
cut unit DUI's**  
page 3

**Report from Iraq:  
615th MP Co.**  
page 3

**Party in the 'Box'**  
page 5

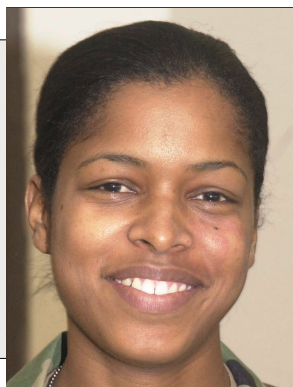
**Hohenfels lunch  
kicks off Black  
History Month**  
page 6

Pfc. Ann Little and Pfc. Christopher Knight, who just returned to Hohenfels after deploying to Iraq with Company A, 94th Engineer Battalion, use some of their mandated "readjusting to Europe" time to help local elementary students make a snowman. See related story on page 4.



# Q&A

**94th Engineer Battalion: "What's the best thing about being back from Iraq?"**

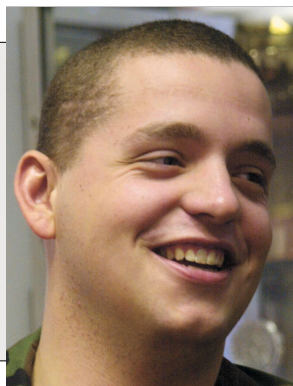


**Marla Quinones**  
"Being with my family."

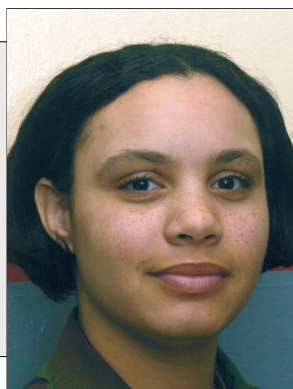
**Jose Hernandez**  
"Being with my kids and my wife."



**James Vold**  
"I just love being back with my family."



**Antonett Turnage**  
"The shopping!"



**Lee Schaper**  
"Being able to travel when and where you want to."



*Interviews and photos by Kevin Young*

## Editorial

# Army declares 'war on accidents'

BY BOB VAN ELSBERG  
COUNTERMEASURE MAGAZINE

Life may be unfair but death isn't — a fatal accident is an "equal-opportunity" killer. It doesn't care whether you're behind the wheel of a Humvee or a Honda; it will take you wherever it can.

I know. I have seen death many times during my 33 years in and around the military.

Back in 1974 I waved goodbye on a Friday afternoon to a couple of friends as they left to go canoeing in Washington state.

Within 24 hours they were both dead — victims of alcohol and the "I-am-bulletproof" syndrome that led both of them to shun life jackets.

The year before, I saw a pretty young woman dying on the road next to her car. There was nothing I could do to help her.

There's an old saying that goes, "Die young and leave a handsome corpse."

But believe me, there is nothing attractive in watching someone die.

Early in 2002 I interviewed the widow of an Air Force sergeant who'd gotten on the road drunk and hit a concrete barrier at 79 mph.

Unbelted, he'd gone into the windshield and was declared brain dead the following day. He had a lot of bravado in his attitude about life.

As I interviewed his widow, I sat there helplessly as she broke down in tears. They'd gotten married and bought a house barely two months before he died.

When he ignored years of warnings against drinking and driving, he never thought about what it would do to the person who loved him most.

The problem with accidental death is that there's no 20-20 hindsight for those involved.

There's no going back and doing things differently



**German firefighters work to extricate the driver of a car wrecked near Hohenfels earlier this year.**

because of lessons learned. There is only one destination—and death gives no paroles.

That's why declaring war on accidents is important, even as we fight this War on Terrorism.

It hurts just as much to bury a loved one who died in an accident as one who died on the battlefield. Maybe, in reality, it hurts more.

Death in combat is at least for a purpose. Death from an accident does little except to provide a sad example.

Boston, Baltimore, Baghdad — it doesn't matter where you are, you're on the front lines of this war.

Your best piece of protective "armor" is risk management.

Taking the time to identify risks, assess their severity, develop a plan to protect yourself, and then follow that plan can make you a victor in this war.

Ignoring the risks and hoping in luck to get you through can quickly make you a victim.

Victor or victim — it's your choice.

**Editor's note:** Bob Van Elsberg is managing editor of "Countermeasure" magazine. Contact the author at [robert.vanelsberg@safetycenter.army.mil](mailto:robert.vanelsberg@safetycenter.army.mil).

## Changing staff, changing times at the Times

**"Don't be dismayed at good-byes. A farewell is necessary before you can meet again. And meeting again, after moments or lifetimes, is certain for those who are friends."**

*-- Richard Bach*

Wow. This issue of the Times will be my last.

By the time this one hits the stands, I'll have moved from the 100th ASG to the 7th ATC.

The past year and a half as chief of command info and more recently as chief of CI and de facto co-editor of the Times have been challenging, entertaining, educational and immensely enjoyable.

I leave behind colleagues who have taught me much, have shared selflessly and who will be missed.



BY CHUCK GORDON

You'll still see me around post, though.

My new position will, of course, offer new challenges and opportunities, and I'm looking forward to learning and growing in new ways.

And don't think you're rid of me completely -- I'll continue to contribute to the Times from time to time, I couldn't let Kevin down completely ...

It's been a good run, and I'm leaving the command info mission in capable hands.

Thanks to all of you who've helped

me, informed me, taught me, supported me.

Please continue to work with Kevin to keep the Times one of the very best Army newspapers.

**"So long, and thanks for all the fish!"**

*-- Douglas Adams*

## Training Times

Training Times is an unofficial biweekly publication authorized by AR 360-1. Editorial views are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. The paper is an offset publication prepared and edited by the 100th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office. Training Times is printed by the Stars & Stripes. Circulation is 6,000 copies. Submissions are welcome. Mail announcements, letters to the editor and commentaries to DPA, Unit 28130, Attn: Training Times, APO AE 09114. Send e-mail to: [communityinfo@cmtymail.100asg.army.mil](mailto:communityinfo@cmtymail.100asg.army.mil). Call the Training Times, 475-6417/7113 or fax to 475-7935 with story ideas and events. Advertising inquiries should be made to Susan Sobin at 349-8407 or civ. 06155-601-407.

**100th ASG Commander**  
Col. Richard G. Jung  
**100th ASG Public Affairs Officer**  
Kathleen Gibbs (475-8103)  
**Deputy Public Affairs Officer**  
Chuck Gordon (475-7127)

**Editorial Staff**  
Chuck Gordon (475-7127)  
Kevin Young (475-6417)



## Now this is a cool tool against drunk driving!

BY KEVIN YOUNG  
100TH ASG PAO

Army leaders have a new weapon in the continuing war against drunk driving...a bright yellow keychain that holds a small laboratory inside.

The new keychains hold a single-use BreathScan® alcohol detector. The alcohol detector lets someone who's been drinking blow into the tube and see if they have over .04 percent blood alcohol content. If the tiny yellow beads inside change color after a couple of minutes, then the blood alcohol content is over that level. If the color changes, it would be wrong to drive. It's then time to find another way home for the night.

The breathalyzer keychains are available at the 7th Army Training Command Safety Office in Bldg. 540. Right now they're available to unit commanders and first sergeants for free, according to Chief Warrant Officer 3 Todd Clark, aviation

safety officer for the 7th Army Training Command. "We got them from USAREUR Safety on a test basis to see if they can help reduce DUI (driving under the influence) by our Soldiers."

"Obviously, if it reduces our DUI rate, it will be worth the investment," Clark continued.

Clark said the breathalyzers would work best if used as part of an aggressive drunk driving program at either the unit or platoon level. "If I'm a

platoon leader or platoon sergeant doing safety briefings before a long weekend, I'm going to make sure every one of my Soldiers has one of them and knows to use it."

He said leaders should go the next step and put a piece of paper with a contact phone number in the tube, like the unit CQ or platoon sergeant or a designated driver who could be called if a Soldier was over the limit and needed a ride home, "Because I don't know a leader out there who would rather answer that call from the Soldier than to take a call from the police or a hospital,"

# 16

DUI in 100th ASG  
in Oct. 03

steering wheel of their car."

According to Clark, using the tiny alcohol detector is so simple that just about anyone could do it. He said, "I got one out and took a look at it, read the instructions, and it's pretty self explanatory.

Right now, the safety office in Grafenwoehr has a case of the breathalyzers for distribution. Clark said that once these are gone, it's up to commanders to buy their next batch.

# 152

USAREUR  
Soldiers  
arrested  
for DUI,  
3rd Qtr,  
2003

Clark said. "Making this keychain available to the Soldier might prompt someone to stop and think about whether to get behind the



## Report from Iraq:

### Local MPs perform a wide range of missions during Iraq deployment



Photo submitted by the unit

**An unidentified Soldier of the 615th MP Company makes for a HUMMV during a convoy through the lonely desert in Iraq.**

BY 1ST LT. TOM SHAUGHNESSY  
615TH MP COMPANY

In March 2003, the 615th MP Company deployed from Grafenwoehr to Kuwait as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Their accomplishments in the Middle East earned the 615th MP Co. "Bloodhounds" the J.P. Holland Award, presented to the nation's best MP company.

Their deployment began in mid-March, after tearful good-byes with their loved ones. Less than 24 hours later, the Soldiers were in Kuwait, wearing thick chemical protection suits and armed for war.

When the order came to attack, four teams from the company

stormed across the border with the 3rd Infantry Division while the rest of the Soldiers spent hours inside tiny bunkers as the SCUD alarms blared.

The rest of the company crossed into Iraq, about 10 days after the war began. The unit first stopped outside of Al Nassirya to support Marines engaged in intense fighting inside the city, but the following day the Bloodhounds were ordered forward to a staging area called "Bushmaster," outside An Najaf.

It was here that the unit began to distinguish itself.

The four line platoons in the company went off in different directions, hours away from one another and the company

headquarters. Soldiers lived out in the open desert, in old chicken-coups, and inside small school buildings as the unit scoured a huge area to find the best roads for the push north.

As supply routes were set through the area, the MPs began around-the-clock security patrols.

The Bloodhounds had the largest sector any company-sized element had inside Iraq, and in doing so the squads within the company became very proficient at establishing hasty checkpoints and clearing houses and buildings.

Hundreds of weapons were recovered, Iraqi artillery pieces were destroyed, and the squad leaders and lieutenants worked

hand-in-hand with tribal leaders to ensure the region remained calm. Gangs of thugs were broken up, difficult situations resolved, and the people of the area finally, after a lifetime of living in fear, felt secure. As the Army pushed forward, the 615th was sent to an airbase at Balad in northern Iraq.

The base was essential for the re-supply of the heavy units that had pushed north from Kuwait. Nightly attacks from small arms fire and mobile weapons platforms gave the Soldiers plenty to do. As the Soldiers learned valuable lessons about how to fight and win, the company's leadership was able to focus on developing a base defense plan, incorporating the armored quick

reaction force and attack aviation. Once the planes began to land, the company was replaced by an MP battalion and sent into the heart of Baghdad.

The 615th had been inside Iraq for just over a month.

The day the 615th entered Baghdad, the company leadership met with the Iraqi police commanders of West Baghdad and came up with a patrol plan and began transferring power to the Iraqis.

The next day, the Bloodhounds took to the streets, patrolling everything west of the Tigris River. For most Iraqis, the Soldiers of the 615th were the first Americans they saw. There were tears of joy and loud cheers as the patrols passed.

The joy expressed during the day turned into anger at night, as the sky was lit up with tracer fire. A few days later the company began patrolling with the Iraqi police, showing them how things should be done.

It took only a little while in Baghdad to realize that there was a huge, totally unplanned for problem. The majority of the police stations in Baghdad were destroyed during the war; not by American bombs or Iraqi tanks, but by angry Iraqis themselves.

See 615TH on page 7



# 94th Engineers glad to be back, thankful to community

BY KEVIN YOUNG  
100TH ASG PAO

Army units returning from a combat environment are always happy to be home. Always. The 94<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, with companies in Vilseck, Hohenfels and Grafenwoehr, is no exception.

The engineers from Company A, stationed in Hohenfels, have made an effort to show their gratitude to their families and the community for the support they felt while working long hours in fierce heat and a tense environment.

"We felt like we owed the community because of the reception we got when we got back to Hohenfels and because of the way they took care of us and our families while we were gone," Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Daniel L. Collins, Jr., said. "There really was a lot of community support."

Collins and other members of the Hohenfels unit used words like "wonderful"

and "overwhelming," to describe the reception they found when they got back from Iraq. Not only did they find the roads from the front gate to the company area lined with flag-waving friends, supporters and families, but the local community gave them a warm reception in the Community Activities Center. After the Soldiers turned in their rifles and other supplies, they went to the CAC for a family- and Soldier-oriented party. At the CAC they found fun for kids and parents from the entire Hohenfels community.

"It was awesome," Staff Sgt. Andrew Kenny said.

Not all the Soldiers are taking advantage of the block leave program. Some are spending time giving something back to the communities and families they missed during their deployment. For example, the unit made several visits to classes at Hohenfels Elementary School to thank the kids and teachers for their support, and the

Soldiers found a very warm reception.

"We were treated like stars," Staff Sgt. Addley Saimbert said. "Kids even asked us for autographs. It was surprising." Saimbert visited Mrs. Calhoun's second-grade class, where he answered questions like, "What did you do there? What did we do for the people while we were there? Did I shoot anybody?"

The Soldiers will make more trips to the school to read to the kids, watch the kids during recess and do all they can to give the teachers a break.

The unit's NCOs are aware that their Soldiers might be on an emotional high right now, but that they are all in less-than-ideal physical condition. They report that though they and their Soldiers might look good on the outside — lean and trim — they are out of shape because of their grueling work in Baghdad — with no time for physical training.

"But we're not pushing physical fitness

right now," Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Daniel L. Collins, Jr., said. "We're doing fun things like bowling tournaments, but keeping in mind Gen. Bell's guidance to give the troops a break."

Kenny said that the Hohenfels Bowling Center, which is closed in the afternoons, has let the company schedule bowling tournaments even when it was closed. Leaders have scheduled a sightseeing trip to Amberg, shopping trips to Wuerzburg and Regensburg, and they are trying to get permission to make an overnight trip to Berlin for sightseeing and shopping.

They are going to the swimming pool in Regensburg. They are scheduling classes to help the Soldiers improve their college chances and GT scores.

The Wolverines are also taking advantage of their travel opportunities. Almost all are taking leave for a week or more over the next 30 days to travel to such exotic locations as Spain, Venice, San Francisco, and Athens (Georgia).



Elizabeth Franciszkowicz, Olivia Fant and McKenna Fant lose their fathers and enjoy their own dance moves during the PWOC dance.



## "Y.M.C.A."

The Grafenwoehr Chapel Annex rocked Saturday, Feb. 7 as the Protestant Women of the Chapel hosted a Father-Daughter dance. Over 60 fathers and daughters enjoyed an evening of music, snacks and dancing to songs like the *Hokey Pokey*.



Gary Brown and Veronica Lowry do the "bump" to M.C. Hammer's *Hammer Time*.



Fathers and daughters work to make Valentine's Day cards for wives and mothers as part of the night's activities.

Photos by Kevin Young



# Show proves you can have fun in the Box

By JOANNE LOVE  
282d BSB MWR

With temperatures in the 20s and the snow blowing outside Friday, the wind wasn't the only thing howling in the "Box" at the Combat Maneuver Training Center at Hohenfels.

Army National Guard soldiers from the 34th Infantry Division were also "howling" ... with delight ... as the "Body and Soul" dance group from Tempe, Ariz., performed for a packed house, well, actually, a huge tent, at the Camp Albertshof area of the training facility.

The show was changed from the original performance location at the Great Escape Restaurant and Night Club to the "field" so that the troops who have been training for a deployment to the Balkans could enjoy an evening away from their duties.

More than 300 soldiers filed into the tent to enjoy the show of songs, dance and comedy.

"It was great," said Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Heinrich of Task Force Falcon. "This is true entertainment."

And the show didn't just



Photo by Heidi Fedak

**Chief Warrant Officer DeLeon, an audience member, gets a driving lesson from the "KISS" School of Driving. The skit was one of Donna East's comedy routines during the Body and Soul show at Hohenfels on Friday, Jan. 30.**

happen. Moving it to the field was hard work.

"It was a challenge to change the venue from the nice, warm, cozy atmosphere of the Great Escape Restaurant and bring it into the field environment," said

Troy Mason, director of the post's Community Activities Center. "A stage was brought in; dressing rooms were arranged; power, heat and seating all had to be supplied. It was true Recreation Delivery at its finest."



Photo by Kevin Young

## Maneuver area improvement

**The Combined Maneuver Training Center at Hohenfels continues to preserve the rich history of the training area through reroofing of the St. Magdalena Church. The project helps preserve the last building remaining from the village of Kirchenoedenhart, lessens the safety hazard for Soldiers and could provide a new home for local bats.**



# Hohenfels celebrates Black History Month



The Cornerstone Gospel Ministry choir from Velburg lent their instrumental and vocal talents to the Hohenfels Black History Month Luncheon. Choir members include Lillian Thompson, Stephanie Jones, Charles Thompson Sr., Selvy Jackson, Stanley Barney, Tracey Shaw, Sherry Mitchell and Melba Barney. Musicians on the back row include Charles Thompson Jr. on keyboard, Anthony English Jr. on drums, and Kandace Dyer on keyboard. Marie Dyer, front, directed the performance. The choir performed the songs "Oh, Mary" and, "I Belong to God," during the program.

Col. E. James Mason, Deputy G3 for U.S. Army, Europe, addresses the audience during the Black History Month Luncheon held at Hohenfels' Community Activity Center Feb. 4.

Mason, a native of Conway, Ark., was keynote speaker for the event and spoke about gains in education access in his life and American society overall.

The program also included a musical solo by Ralph Samuel, food sampling, an introduction of

the speaker by Maj. Cheryl Boone of the 282nd Base Support Battalion Legal Center, a performance by the Cornerstone Gospel Ministry choir from Velburg, and a dramatic poetry recital by Sgt. Garnette Jones of the Operations Group.

The Hohenfels Black History Month Luncheon was the first of many activities in the 100th Area Support Command to commemorate Black History Month this February.



Col. James Mason from the Headquarters, U.S. Army Europe, shares his personal thoughts about the importance of education in ensuring equal opportunities for African-Americans.



# DeCA Europe changes returned check policy

By GERRI YOUNG  
DeCA Europe Public Affairs

The Defense Commissary Agency will soon start using a new centralized commercial process to handle the collection of returned checks.

This change will shorten the amount of time it takes for the check to be satisfied, eliminate the second payment attempt previously done by an individual's bank and automatically deduct the amount of the check from the customer's bank account on military paydays through the use of electronic collection.

Previously, the commissary system often had to wait as much as two months to recover funds from a returned check.

"This required a great deal of handling of paper checks and resolution efforts for the bank, for the Defense Finance and Accounting Service and for the resource man-



agement staff at our region headquarters," said Linda Matthews, project coordinator for DeCA Europe.

"This streamlining allows us to place our efforts on more positive customer service issues and cut the resolution time in half," she added.

A new brochure, *What happens if my personal check bounces at the commissary?*, answers any question a customer with a returned check may have.

The brochure will be available at many

stores or may be requested by e-mail at [linda.matthews@deca.mil](mailto:linda.matthews@deca.mil).

"The vast majority of our customers are honest and responsible individuals whose checks are routinely honored," said Christine Frey, DeCA Europe comptroller.

"For those customers who have payment problems," she said, "we have three customer service liaisons available in Germany to assist during normal business hours."

The customer service liaisons are:

- Zahra Fraga, 0631-3523-312
- Shaina Williams, 0631-3523-310
- Clifford Middleton, 0631-3523-307

In Germany, customers can call toll-free, 00800-6541-2398.

DeCA Europe will be the first region to switch entirely to this new process.

Five commissaries in the U.S. have been test locations and more will soon be added, eventually bringing the entire commissary system under this process.

## Graf fitness fair slated for May

HEALTH PROMOTIONS COORDINATION OFFICE

The Grafenwoehr Fieldhouse will host this year's health and fitness fair May 21 and 22.

Many community agencies and clubs will be on hand providing information and free fitness classes such as aerobics, kickboxing, resista-ball, spinning and yoga.

There will be massage demonstrations, classes on proper weightlifting technique, basic orientation on fitness equipment and a women's self defense demonstration.

For more information, call Susannah Knapp, 100th ASG Health Promotions Coordinator at 475-8433 or e-mail: [susannah.knapp@cmtymail.100asg.army.mil](mailto:susannah.knapp@cmtymail.100asg.army.mil)

## 615th

continued from page 3

The police who worked in those stations simply stopped showing up. What was expected to be a relatively easy task of supporting an in-place Iraqi police system turned into complex task – rebuilding the Iraqi police from the ground up.

Once this difficulty was brought to the table, the 615th was chosen to lead the charge. Their first mission was to find and evaluate all police stations in West Baghdad while continuing to patrol and conduct convoy escort missions.

It took more than a week to complete, and the results of the evaluation weren't promising. Most stations were abandoned, and only a few Iraqi police were showing up at the others. Only a handful of the stations had potential.

The 615th took these stations and began building a foundation that will serve the people of Baghdad for generations to come.

The Bloodhounds initially took charge of 11 stations scattered throughout western Baghdad.

They went on patrols with the Iraqi police, served warrants with them, and taught them classes on everything from close quarters combat to rifle marksmanship.

The Soldiers worked to teach station leaders about budget management, patrol distribution and crime tracking. Stations quickly began to function efficiently with less and less input from the MPs.

During this time, the MPs had to deal with another unexpected problem.

Shortly before the war, Saddam opened the doors to all the prisons in Iraq. Thousands of criminals, including murderers and rapists, were released in Baghdad. Not surprisingly, many of these

criminals returned to their old ways, and crime inside Baghdad reached an all-time high.

It was impossible for the Iraqi police to deal with the situation. The MPs were forced to take the lead on putting the criminals back where they belonged.

Warrants had to be served every day, and every day doors were kicked in, houses cleared, and criminals ran down. At the same time, the Bloodhounds set-up hasty checkpoints throughout the city to look for contraband and stolen vehicles. More criminals were rounded up.

While this was going on, the 615th continued gathering a tremendous amount of intelligence that was turned over to division.

*... and every day  
doors were kicked  
in, houses cleared,  
and criminals  
ran down ...*

This information allowed division to plan and carry out large-scale operations throughout Baghdad.

Often, the Bloodhounds could use the information themselves. They captured the heads of large weapons markets, broke-up counterfeiting rings, and captured dozens of terrorists. The company also captured a member of the Top 50 "Blacklist" using intelligence they'd gathered.

During this time the MPs were the main ones patrolling the streets of Baghdad at night.

Again, the 615th took the lead with the patrols. The danger was very real. Every platoon in the

company has been hit with roadside bombs, taken direct fire, and been forced to engage the enemy at close range.

The Soldiers of the 615th accepted these dangers, and night after night headed off into some of the worst areas in Iraq.

The 615th continued their work inside Iraqi police stations at the same time. After getting the initial 11 stations up and running, the Bloodhounds were moved to stations in northwest Baghdad; stations that came to set the standard for the entire city. The follow-on brigade is planning to use the 615th tracking systems and operating procedures for all of Baghdad. Eventually, the 615th was pulled out of the stations so they could focus on patrols.

Today, the 615th continues to patrol the streets night and day, even as they prepare to return to Germany.

The dangers faced are not lost on any Soldier, but neither is the tremendous difference being made everyday. With every terrorist brought in, every criminal network broken up, every piece of intelligence gathered, the Bloodhounds realize that Iraq is one step closer to standing on its own.

It's already been acknowledged that the 615th is second to none.

And when all is said and done, the Soldiers and the unit will be recognized for their accomplishments. But the thanks of an appreciative Iraqi – someone who sees hope where there once was none – is more than enough for most.

The 615th's performance in Iraq, from Bushmaster to Baghdad and everywhere in between, allows the 615th to stand taller than the other units that stood by its side, and more often than not, followed in its footsteps.





Soldiers salute during the 3d Brigade's farewell ceremony on Feb. 3, during which the colors were cased to signify the unit's departure from Vilseck.

SUBMITTED BY CPT. ISSAM BORNALES  
3d BDE STAFF

3d Brigade history began when the Army formed the Headquarters Troop of the 1st Expeditionary Division in 1917 in New York City.

A week later, the unit sailed for France as the first American unit to take part in World War I. The unit trained in France until placed into action in the Picardy sector on Apr. 27, 1918, to bolster the exhausted French First Army.

From that start, the unit took part in every major American operation of the war. In recognition of its distinguished combat record, the unit was selected to lead the American contingent of occupation forces across the Rhine River into the Coblenz Bridgehead.

The unit, now designated the Headquarters of the 1st Infantry Division, returned to New York City in Sept. 1919 to a gala parade down Fifth Avenue.

During the interwar period the troop remained stationed in the New York area, until the prospect of American involvement in the on-going Second World War brought the division together at Fort Devens, Massachusetts, in Feb., 1941.

The division found itself back on boats to Europe in July and Aug. of 1942. After training in Scotland, the 1st Infantry Division, found itself again under fire—on the coast of North Africa in 1942. Two-and-a-half years later, with the news of the German surrender on May 8, 1945, the lead elements of the division ceased offensive operations and

rested in place in Czechoslovakia.

The road there had taken them against the Afrika Korps at Kasserine Pass, Gafsa and El Guettar; across the beaches at Gela and the mountainous spine of Sicily; ashore again under fire on Omaha Beach, through the hedgerows of Normandy and before the gates of Mons; to and through the Siegfried Line and into Aachen, and then on to the Battle of the Bulge; and finally across the Rhine at Remagen, to the Harz Mountains and across the Weser before entering Czechoslovakia.

Garrisoned initially at Bad Toelz, the unit remained in Germany until early summer of 1955, when it returned to the U.S. after 13 years of

duty overseas and was stationed at Fort Riley, Ks.

The 1st Infantry Division was disbanded in 1960. Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3d Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, was activated at Fort Riley on January 2, 1964.

In late 1965, the brigade deployed to Vietnam, where it saw five long years of action. Based north of Saigon, the unit participated in countless operations in the Iron Triangle, the Trapezoid, the Catcher's Mitt, the Song Be and Saigon Corridors, and along Highway 13 - Thunder Road. The Iron Brigade earned thirteen campaign streamers jungle before returning to Fort Riley in 1970.

### 3d Brigade awards

#### World War I

Montdidier-Noyon  
Asine-Marne  
St. Mihiel  
Meuse-Argonne  
Lorraine 1917  
Lorraine 1918  
Picardy 1918

#### World War II

Algeria-French Morocco (with arrowhead)  
Tunisia  
Sicily (with arrowhead)  
Normandy (with arrowhead)  
Northern France  
Rhineland  
Ardennes-Alsace  
Central Europe

#### Vietnam

Defense  
Counteroffensive  
Counteroffensive, Phase II  
Counteroffensive, Phase III  
Tet Counteroffensive  
Counteroffensive, Phase IV  
Counteroffensive, Phase V  
Counteroffensive, Phase VI  
Tet 69/ Counteroffensive  
Summer-Fall 1969  
Winter-Spring 1970

#### Gulf War

Defense of Saudi Arabia  
Liberation of Kuwait

#### Recent Deployments

Bosnia  
Kosovo  
Operation Iraqi Freedom I



Representatives of the battalions and troops deploying with the 3rd Brigade out of Vilseck to Operation Iraqi Freedom in Feb. participate in the farewell ceremony held at Vilseck's Hilltop Fitness Center on Feb. 3. The fitness center was filled to capacity as Vilseck's largest unit prepares for another combat tour.



The 3d "Iron" Brigade commander, Col. Dana J.H. Pittard cases the unit's colors during the formal farewell ceremony held at Vilseck Hilltop Fitness Center on Feb. 3.

In 1975, the brigade was redesignated as the 1st Infantry Division (Forward) and moved to Goppingen, Germany, where it remained until the collapse of the Soviet Empire and Warsaw Pact.

In late 1990, the brigade deployed to the Persian Gulf for the defense of Saudi Arabia and the subsequent liberation of Kuwait. Upon completion of hostilities the unit returned to Germany, where it was inactivated pursuant to the post Cold War drawdown of the United States Army, Europe in 1991.

On Feb. 15, 1996, the unit was reactivated in Vilseck.

Since then, the 3d Brigade has deployed to the Balkans, Macedonia, Bosnia and Kosovo.

The most recent deployment occurred when Task Force 1-63 deployed to Iraq as the USAREUR Immediate Ready Task Force in Apr. 2003.

Currently, 3rd Brigade Combat Team resides in Vilseck and Bamberg where it continues to train and prepares to deploy to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II.



**Tuesday, Feb. 17**  
Black History Month Buffet, Hohenfels Great Escape, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.  
Volleyball Officials Certification, Hohenfels Sports, Feb. 17 to 22, 466-2883.  
BI-OKOTO Drum & Dance group, Hohenfels CAC, 3 p.m., 466-2670.  
Understanding Insurance workshop, Hohenfels ACS, 3-5 p.m., 466-4860.  
Mixed league bowling at Hohenfels Lane 17, 6-8:30 p.m., 466-2751.  
Beaus & Baskets Extravaganza, Graf Civilians and Spouses Club, Tower View, 6:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, Feb. 18**  
Operations Security and Force Protection briefing, Bldg. 700, Vilseck 409th BSB, 1 p.m.  
Retirement Ceremony, Grafenwoehr Tower, 3 p.m.  
German for Newcomers “Going shopping,” Graf Library, 10 a.m., 475-1740.  
Preschool story hour, Hohenfels Library, 9:30 a.m., 466-1740.  
Quilting class, Hohenfels Arts & Crafts, Bldg. 18. Learn to make a “Yellow brick road” quilt, 6-8:30 p.m. today and Feb. 25.

**Thursday, Feb. 19**  
Create a Valentine Card for teens, Graf Teen Center, 4 p.m., 475-7441.  
Effective Discipline, Hohenfels ACS, 3:30-5:30 p.m., 466-4860.

**Friday, Feb. 20**  
Lunch special, Hohenfels Great Escape, Bulgogi for \$7.50.  
Black History Month story and food sampling, Graf Teen Center, 4 p.m., 475-7441.  
Mighty Moe Bingo, Hohenfels

CAC, 6-7:30 p.m., 466-2670.

**Saturday, Feb. 21**  
Scrappy bow tie quilt for beginners, Graf Arts & Crafts, noon to 6 p.m., Feb. 21 and 22, \$25 + supplies, 475-6101.  
Wood shop safety class, Hohenfels Arts & Crafts, 10:30-noon.  
Spades tournament, Vilseck Langenbruck Center, 1 p.m., 476-2360.  
Black History Month program “Brown v. Board of Education performance,” Graf Elementary, 5-7 p.m., 476-2292.  
Ski Welt Trip, Hohenfels ODR, 466-2060.  
Grosser Arber ski trip, Graf/Vilseck ODR, 6 a.m.

**Sunday, Feb. 22**  
100 Tournament 4th Start (if needed), Vilseck Bowling Center,

10:45 a.m., 476-2576.  
BI-OKOTO Drum & Dance Theatre, Vilseck Langenbruck Center, 7 p.m.  
Prague day trip, Graf/Vilseck ITR, \$35, 475-7402 / 476-2360.

**Monday, Feb. 23**  
Army One Source class, Hohenfels ACS, Bldg. 317, 3 p.m.  
Volleyball officials certification, Hohenfels Post Gym, Feb. 23-27.  
Newcomers Orientation, Hohenfels CAC, Feb. 23 to 27, 466-2670.  
Math, science and Technology Night, Hohenfels Schools, at Hohenfels High School.  
New Soldier/Spouses orientation, Vilseck Bldg. 700, 9:15 a.m.  
PREP, Graf ACS, 10-11:30 a.m., 475-8371.  
AFTB Impact of the Mission on Family, Vilseck/Graf ACS, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., 476-2650 / 475-8371.  
AFTB Classes, Hohenfels ACS, 5-8 p.m., 466-4860.

Single Parenting, Hohenfels ACS, 3:30-5:30 p.m., 466-4860.

**Thursday, Feb. 26**  
Teacher planning day (no school for students) at Vilseck Elementary School.  
BOSS meeting, Grafenwoehr Outdoor Recreation, 1:30 p.m.  
AFTB Level II, ACS, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., 476-2650 / 475-8371.  
Conflict Resolutions, Hohenfels ACS, 3:30-5:30 p.m., 466-4860.  
“Pete’s Day” at Hohenfels Great Escape. People named Pete get a discount. Creamy chicken enchilada special just \$7.25.  
*Driving Miss Daisy* performances, Hohenfels CAC, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Feb. 26 and 27, 466-2670.

**Friday, Feb. 27**  
Vilseck Civilians and Spouses Club Bunco Night, Feb. 27, 6:30 p.m., Yesterday’s Club, Vilseck. Members only, but you can join at the event. \$5 entry fee.  
Sock Hop for 4 to 6 graders, Hohenfels E.S., 2:45 to 4:30 p.m.  
Handmade Memories, Graf Arts & Crafts, 9 a.m.-noon, 10% off for spouses of deployed soldiers 475-6101  
PREP, Vilseck ACS, 10-11:30 a.m., 476-2650.  
Black History Month Dinner, Grafenwoehr Tower View Restaurant, 6 p.m.  
ATFB Level II, ACS, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., 476-2650 / 475-8371.

**Saturday, Feb. 28**  
Grosser Arber ski trip, Graf/Vilseck ODR.  
Boxing Invitational for Soldiers only, at Wiesbaden, contact your local Army fitness center for more information.  
Family Forum, Vilseck Langenbruck Center 1-3 p.m., 476-2360.

**Sunday, Feb. 29**  
Leap Year Bingo, Vilseck Langenbruck, 2 p.m., 475-2360.  
Leap Year bowling tournament, Graf Bowling, 10:54 a.m., 475-6177.  
Chiemsee Castle trip, Graf/Vilseck ITR, \$35, 475-7402 / 476-2360.

## March 2004

### Women’s History Month

**Monday, Mar. 1**  
Submissions due for All-Army Arts & Crafts Contest at local Arts & Crafts shops.  
Basic Conversational German class, Hohenfels CAC, Mar. 1-3, 4-7 p.m.  
Army Family Team Building classes, Hohenfels ACS, Bldg. 317, 5-8 p.m.

**Tuesday, Mar. 2**  
Mixed leagues bowling, Hohenfels Lane 17, 6-8:30 p.m.  
Sibyllenbad Spa trip, Graf/Vilseck ITR.



Photo courtesy Grafenwoehr Elementary School

## Math Matters

**Chief Warrant Officer 3 Todd Clark, 7th ATC Safety Office, discusses the role math plays in his military specialty with students at Grafenwoehr Elementary School Feb. 5.**  
**As a helicopter pilot, Clark said, a strong grasp of mathematics is essential for calculating fuel to weight ratios, flight distances and other critical tasks.**  
**Clark was one of several volunteers who shared the importance of math with the students.**



# New law provides military more tax breaks

ARMY NEWS SERVICE

The Internal Revenue Service is helping taxpayers use a new law that adds deductions for some reservists, expands the definition of combat zone and provides income exclusions for military death-benefit payments and certain home sales.

President Bush signed the Military Family Tax Relief Act of 2003 into law Nov. 11 with retroactive provisions making it beneficial for some Soldiers to file amended returns on form 1040X.

"The IRS asks them to put the words "Military Family Tax Relief Act" in red at the top of such (amended) returns to speed processing," said IRS spokeswoman Gloria Wajciechowski.

The new law doubled the benefit paid to survivors of deceased Armed Forces members to \$12,000, made the entire amount tax-free and made the changes effective for deaths occurring after Sept. 10, 2001. Previously, only \$3,000 was tax-free.

"Recipients who already paid tax on benefits received for deaths after the effective date may file an amended return on Form 1040X, reducing their adjusted gross income by the \$3,000 they had reported as taxable," Wajciechowski said. "Those who receive such "gratuity" benefits in 2003 and future years will not have to report them on their tax returns."

Taxpayers may exclude gain on a home sale, provided they have owned and used the home as a principal residence for two of the five years before the sale. A reduced maximum exclusion may apply to those

who satisfy part of the two-year rule. Soldiers often retain ownership of a home while away on duty, but eventually sell it without returning to live in it, perhaps failing the use test completely, officials said.

The new law allows persons on qualified extended duty in the U.S. Armed Services

*... the definition of "combat zone" was expanded under the new law to include contingency operations*

or the Foreign Service to suspend this five-year test period for up to 10 years.

A taxpayer is on qualified extended duty when at a duty station at least 50 miles from the residence sold, or when residing under orders in government housing, for more than 90 days or for an indefinite period.

This change applies to home sales after May 6, 1997. A taxpayer may use this provision for only one property at a time and may exclude gain on only one home sale in any two-year period. An amended return must usually be filed within three years of the original return's due date, but the law gives qualifying taxpayers who sold a home before 2001 until Nov. 10, 2004, to file an amended return claiming the exclusion.

Also under the new law, National Guard and Army Reserve members who stay over-

night more than 100 miles away from home for a drill or meeting may deduct unreimbursed travel expenses (transportation, meals and lodging) as an above-the-line deduction. The deduction is limited to the rates for such expenses authorized for federal employees, including per diem in lieu of subsistence. This provision is effective for tax years after 2002.

For 2003 returns, IRS officials said taxpayers should use Form 2106 or 2106-EZ to figure the deduction amount and carry it as a "write-in" to Form 1040, line 33, putting the letters "RC" and the amount on the dotted line and include this subtraction in the entry for line 33.

Under another provision, payments made after Nov. 11, 2003, under the DoD Homeowners Assistance Program, to offset the adverse effects on housing values of military base realignments or closures, will be excludable from income as a fringe benefit.

In addition, the definition of "combat zone" was expanded under the new law to include contingency operations. The various extensions granted to combat-zone participants to hold off on filing returns or paying taxes until after they return will also apply to those serving in contingency operations, as designated by the Secretary of Defense, IRS officials said.

Soldiers who think they may need to file an amendment to benefit from the new law, but cannot find a copy of their tax return for a previous year, may use Form 4506, "Request for Copy or Transcript of Return," to get an earlier year's tax return, Wajciechowski said. This form and Form 1040X are available on the IRS Web site at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov), or by calling 1-800-829-3676.

## Pentagon decides against internet voting this year

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

The Department of Defense has deep-sixed an Internet voting program over concerns about security, a Pentagon spokeswoman said Feb. 6.



The Federal Voting Assistance Program, which aids Americans serving overseas in the voting process, will not use the Secure Electronic Registration and Voting Experiment system in November.

DoD decided not to use SERVE because of "inability to ensure the legitimacy of the votes." The cancellation follows a report by computer security experts asked to test the system. They concluded the system did not ensure the legitimacy of votes. The report said there were a number of ways computer hackers could crack into the system. The Pentagon said research will continue.

Overseas voters can vote by regular paper ballots or fax. FVAP has more information on its website, [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov), and Soldiers can contact unit voting assistance officers.

## Army kicks off new safety campaign

ARMY NEWS SERVICE

The Army hopes that saturating Soldiers with two simple words can keep them alive.

Acting Secretary of the Army Les Brownlee announced today that "Be Safe" will be the Army's official safety campaign theme. The campaign will attempt to decrease accidents by 50 percent over the next two years.

Brownlee came up with the slogan after hearing the phrase continuously used by Soldiers and commanders in Iraq when he visited there. He explained that they were a "band of brothers" with a fundamental concern for one another's safety.

From fiscal year 2001 to 2003 the Army's accident rate has risen from 168 accidental deaths to 255, according to officials from the Army Safety Center, Fort Rucker, Ala.

The plan is to plaster the theme all over installations to remind Soldiers and leaders of the importance of safety in all endeavors, locations and environments, safety officials said. The goal is to provide leaders with resources to

minimize risks, and training to help Soldiers identify and avoid hazardous behavior.

The specifics of the campaign won't be released until after Safety Center officials brief at the Senior Army Commanders Conference Feb. 11 at Carlyle Barracks, Pa.

Leader-driven risk management is what it's going to take to stem the increased accident rate Army-wide, officials said. This is a responsibility of the entire chain of command, they added.

The announcement of the campaign was not the first initiative to improve the Army's accident rate. During the Christmas season the Army announced that it was joining the nationwide "Click It or Ticket" campaign.

There have been 29 deaths this year caused by privately owned vehicles, according to officials from the Safety Center. Last fiscal year, POVs were responsible for 40 percent of accident fatalities.

Military police are aggressively ticketing people who disregard seatbelt laws and showing zero tolerance during holiday weekends.



**HOHENFELS****February Kontakt events**

- Feb. 18 - Kontakt board meeting, 6 p.m., Stammtisch afterwards, 7 p.m., at Josef's.
  - Feb. 26 & 27 - Theatre performance at the Hohenfels Box Seat Theater: "Driving Miss Daisy."
  - Feb. 27 - German Kegeln at 7 p.m. in Hohenfels town, located at BRK.
- For our American members, if interested in visiting a German carnival ball, here some dates:
- Feb. 19 - Unreasonable Thursday, Chinese-Carnival in Dietfurt, carnival parade.
  - Feb. 21 - Fire-Brigade-Ball, 8 p.m., Hohenfels, Keltensaal.

For more info about any of these events or club membership, contact the club secretary at 09471-200626, or the president at 09182-2285.

**ACS class changes**

The following Family Advocacy classes have been rescheduled:

Old date	Class	New date
Feb. 18	<i>Effective Discipline</i>	March 22
Feb. 24	<i>Volunteer Victim Advocate Training</i>	March 12
Feb. 25	<i>Single Parenting</i>	March 29
Feb. 26	<i>Conflict Resolution</i>	March 26

**Youth Sports**

Baseball and softball season runs April 10-June 13. Registration runs Feb. 23-March 26. Children ages 3-15 will need a current physical exam valid through the sport season and must be registered at Central Registration, bldg. 96.

Youth Sports is asking for volunteer coaches to come forward early so mandatory training and background checks may be completed and verified before the season begins. For more information, contact Tom Janis or Jerry Mayhew at 466-2558 or 466-2488.

**Child and Youth Services PAC meeting**

Child and youth Services will hold a Parent Advisory Committee meeting Feb. 24 at noon in bldg. 96. Questions and suggestions are always welcome. Feel free to bring a brown-bag lunch. The PAC is for parents of children in any CYS activity.

Did you know that by attending these monthly meetings, you can earn Parent Points? Earning a total of five parent points allows you to receive a 10 percent discount on child care fees.

For more information, call 466-2079.

**Math, Science and Technology night**

Hohenfels High School PTSA will host the '03-'04 Math, Science, Technology Night Feb. 25, 4-6:30 p.m. Come find out what elementary, middle and high school students are being taught and are learning.

View displays and demonstrations, try games and learning activities, use estimation skills at the Guesstimation Booth for prizes. Be a presenter and share your math, science or technology expertise, collections, or interests.

For more information, call 466-3162 or civ. 09473-950029.

**Chapel events**

- Feb. 25, 5 p.m. -- Ash Wednesday Catholic Mass, main chapel
  - March 19, 7:30 a.m. -- National Prayer Breakfast, Chapel Hilltop Center
- For more information call the Hilltop Chapel Center at 466-1570 or Civ 09472-831570.

**Scouts seek help with Derby**

The Hohenfels Cub Scouts need some help with the Pinewood Derby. The rotational demands of Pack committee members have made logistics for the Derby difficult.

Instead of canceling and disappointing the boys, the committee seeks someone from the community who has experience with Pinewood Derbys and would be willing to take on this once-a-year event.

The tentative date is Feb. 27, 5-7 p.m. for weigh-in with the races Feb. 28, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

For more info, or to volunteer, e-mail Dawn Overbye at [overbye@t-online.de](mailto:overbye@t-online.de) or call 09472-907-751.

**Couples and communication**

Couples Communication, Feb. 27, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Hilltop Chapel Center, can help couples learn and about effective communication and conflict resolution, and how to express needs and desires. The class is free and includes a lunch and refreshments.

For more information or to register, call 466-3575/1570.

**A wee bit of piping**

The Community and Spouses Organization seeks a bagpiper for a Gaelic luncheon slated for March 8, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., at the Great Escape. To volunteer, call Wendy Aldcroft-Guelle at 09472-907775.

**Child Development Center news**

Due to the demand for hourly care, and an attempt to streamline procedures, the process of getting hourly reservations will be made easier. Beginning March 15, reservations may be called in for April and confirmed, on the spot, two weeks prior. Parents no longer have to physically come in, or plan 30 days out. Please remember, you may only receive up to 24 hours per week and in increments of four hours daily. Parents needing more time may request an exception to policy from the CDC director. For more info, call 466-4706/4707.

**Central Texas College**

Central Texas College will start term IV March 29. Registration will be held March 15-26. Classes include: Child Guidance, Theory of Automotive Engines, and Police Management and Supervision.

Stop by the Education Center or call 466-3140 for more information.

**Wild West donations**

The Community and Spouses Organization seeks donations of theme baskets for Wild West Night April 17 at the CAC. Wild West Night is a fundraiser for CSO. All proceeds go back into the community.

For more information or help in creating your basket, contact Susan Green at [ALLCAV@aol.com](mailto:ALLCAV@aol.com) or call 09472-911-746.

**New restaurant in town**

Sam's Rib Shack, the new restaurant in Albertshof Bldg. 1161, is open from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

For more information, call 466-2000.

**Weekly dinner drawing**

Stop by and eat lunch at the Great Escape and you'll have a chance to win a free dinner at Sam's Rib Shack.

For every lunch you eat at the Great Escape, you'll receive a ticket. At the end of each week, one lucky ticketholder will win a free dinner at Sam's.

For more information, call the Great Escape at 466-2000.

**Interested in drama?**

The Hohenfels Box Seat Theater can use you. Upcoming productions always need actors, singers, musicians, stage technicians, sound technicians, lighting technicians, people to work on make-up and costumes, props, ushers or patrons of the arts.

For more information or to participate, call 466-2340.

**BOSS news**

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers is for all single soldiers. Want to help? Want to know more? Attend a meeting, make suggestions and help plan upcoming events.

o Hohenfels: Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday, 1:30 p.m., at the Community Activities Center. For more info, call 466-4545.

**Make KONTAKT!**

Meet, greet and get to know your German neighbors, learn about the local culture and have fun! KONTAKT has a full schedule of meetings, movies, special events, trips and more. To get involved in KONTAKT activities, contact:

Hohenfels: American president Hollis Smith, 09471-200-626, German president Karin Renner, 09182-2285, KONTAKT coordinator Christina Wilson, 466-4294.

**Winter driving info**

For current information on road conditions in your community, call:

- 409th BSB  
476-3999, civ. 09662-83-3999
- 282nd BSB  
466-4001, civ. 09472-83-4001

**100TH ASG****Free Food Friday**

Lunch is on the Big Gun. Every Friday, AFN Bavaria will buy lunch for up to eight co-workers if they're the chosen ones.

Send a fax or e-mail explaining in 30 words or less why your office deserve free lunch. Fax 476-3171 or civ. 09662-83-3171; e-mail [requests@afn.bavaria.army.mil](mailto:requests@afn.bavaria.army.mil).

Deadline is every thursday. Winners will be picked that day and announced Friday mornings.

Lunch will be delivered by Big Gun staffers that day. Food provided by Popeye's and Anthony's Pizza.

For more details and rules, visit the AFN Bavaria website at [www.afneurope.net](http://www.afneurope.net), then click on the Bavaria link, and look under contests.

**Help Wanted**

- Red Cross Field Office Coordinator for Vilseck -- For info, requirements and

application procedures, go to: [www.redcross.org/jobs](http://www.redcross.org/jobs) and look up job number 828BR or call 476-1760/1760, or civ. 09662-83-1760 or 09472-83-1760



- Substitute UMUC Hohenfels Field Representative -- On-call and fill in full-time for several weeks beginning in April. For more info, call Andrea Storkson at 466-4106.

- Graf Thrift Shop seeks part-timers -- cashier, head consignment clerk, consignment clerk/housekeeper positions. To

apply, bring a one-page resume in on days of operation. Positions available immediately. For more info, call 475-6181.

**Community Bank online**

The Community Bank is now online at [www.dodcommunitybank.com](http://www.dodcommunitybank.com). This is, initially, a public site providing information such as ATM and banking center locations, phone numbers, product information and frequently asked questions. In late June, the

online banking site will premiere. This will provide online bill paying, account statements, balances, transfer of funds, check orders and more. It will be a secure website for customers only.

**Ski and Snowboarding Club**

The Graf/Vilseck German-American Ski and Snowboarding Club is open to members of all three 100th ASG communities. Meetings are the 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 7 p.m. in Grafenwoehr's da Lino Italian restaurant. Upcoming trips:

- April 8-11 -- Spring Break Ski Trip to Ischgl, Austria

Buses make stops in Hohenfels for all trips. For more info, contact Tony Neaverth at 475-7065 or Peter Bruennig at 475-6570.

**Smoking policy for DoDDS-Europe**

Students are prohibited from possessing or using tobacco products on school-owned and operated buses or on chartered buses, or when participating in school-sponsored or supervised activities on or off campus.

Violation of this policy will result in disciplinary action to be determined by the principal.

There will be no designated smoking areas defined in schools or condoned by DoDDS-E.

**GOT NEWS?**

Want to reach the whole ASG community? Send items of community interest, special events, short items about awards, promotions or even personal and family announcements to: [communityinfo@cmtymail.100asg.army.mil](mailto:communityinfo@cmtymail.100asg.army.mil)



GRAF/VILSECK

Town Hall

The 409th BSB Town Hall meeting for Vils-  
eck and Grafenwoehr, including all off-post  
housing, will be Feb. 25 at 6 p.m. at the Graf-  
enwoehr Elementary School.

Black History Month

The 409th BSB African-American History  
Month program “Vision of Excellence”  
spotlights Brown v. Board of Education  
Feb. 27 at 6 p.m. at the Tower View, Graf.  
Keynote speaker will be Maj. James A.  
Woods, 7th ATC inspector general.

Spring brown bag sales

The Graf and Vilseck Thrift Shops are  
gearing up for Spring Brown Bag Sales.  
Stuff all the clothing and specially marked  
items you can into a brown grocery sack  
and take it home for just \$4! No consign-  
ments taken and no consigned items sold  
the date of the sale. Sale dates are Vilseck,  
bldg. 301, Feb. 28, 10 a.m.- 1 p.m.; Graf, bldg.  
533, March 6, 10 a.m.- 1 p.m.

Community thrift shops are sponsored by  
the Grafenwoehr Civilians and Spouses  
Club and all profits are donated to organiza-  
tions within the community.

Give Kids a Smile Day!

The Vilseck Dental Clinic offers dental  
screening and sealants for children in  
grades K-3, Feb. 28, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- Last names A-M morning
  - Last names N-Z afternoon
- For more information, call 476-1720.

Family night at the library

Celebrate the 100th birthday of  
Dr. Seuss March 2, 5:30-6:30 p.m.  
at the Graf library. Enjoy a variety  
of Dr. Seuss books and a special  
tribute, the movie *The Lorax*.  
This original conservation classic  
has a timeless message for young  
and old alike. It includes such  
songs as *Under the Tree*, *Do, Do*  
*Need a Thneed* and *The Good*  
*Old Once-ler*.  
For more information, call 475-1740.

Women’s History Month

The 409th BSB will celebrate Women’s  
History Month with a luncheon March 5,  
11:30 a.m., at the Tower View.  
Guest speaker Col. Gwendolyn Boney-  
Harris, 6th ASG commander, will address  
“Women - Inspiring Hope and Possibility.”  
Cost is \$10 per person. Tickets are on sale  
through March 4.  
For more info, contact EO at 476-2292,  
475-7215 or 475-8038.

Resumix training

Grafenwoehr ACS offers a free online job  
search workshop and Resumix resume writ-  
ing class March 9, 9:30-11 a.m., at the Graf  
Library.  
For more information call ACS at 475-8371  
or stop by the library.

Decades Dance

Girl Scouts and families are invited to the



Decades Dance, March 13, 5-8:30 p.m., loca-  
tion to be determined. Scouts can  
invite other girls who might be  
interested in joining Girl Scouts.  
For more info, contact Carolyn  
Swift at 475-6934 or 09641-83-  
6934.

Women's Morning Out

Fellowship with the Protestant  
Women of the Chapel the third  
Wednesday of the month, 9-11:30 a.m., Vils-  
eck Chapel Fellowship Hall. Free childcare  
onsite.  
• March 17 -- International Day of Prayer  
• April 21 -- Everything New  
For more info, call 476-1570 or civ 09662-  
1570.

Want to quit smoking?

The Tobacco Cessation Class can help  
you meet your health goals.  
Start dates are March 23, May 25 and July  
20. The class is six weeks long. Attendance  
is required once a week.  
For more information, contact the commu-  
nity health nurse at 476-2165.

Greek restaurant closing

The Akropolis Restaurant, in Graf bldg.  
641 (the former Gettysburg Club), will close  
March 31.

Girl Scouts need your help

The Grafenwoehr Girl Scouts seek a new  
overseas committee chair for 2004-2005. The

deadline to submit names is April 15. Re-  
quired skills include overseeing committee  
and leader meetings, following regulations  
for private organizations, and ensuring pro-  
gram guidelines are followed. Free training  
provided in May.  
For more info, contact Ernestine Robinson  
at 09641-475-6140.

Family Readiness Resource Center

The new Vilseck Family Readiness Group  
Resource Center, bldg. 273, is now open.  
The center provides computers that allow  
family members to e-mail or chat with their  
deployed service members.

Ballet training

Classical ballet training for ages 3-18 is  
available at Vilseck. Classes meet in bldg.  
221 Mondays and Thursdays.  
For more information, call 09662-701159.

Construction update

Contractors are digging and filling trench-  
es in several locations around Grafenwoehr.  
The work will continue in coming weeks.  
In most cases, roads will not be closed,  
but be aware that heavy equipment and  
safety barriers may pose delays or shifts in  
traffic patterns.  
Some streets may be closed for a few  
hours for one day.  
Public Affairs will attempt to keep the  
community informed. Check the CIC and  
Training Times, and listen to AFN for up-  
dates.



## News

## Hohenfels Commissary reflects manager's drive for customer satisfaction

BY GERRY ARBIOS  
282ND BSB PAO

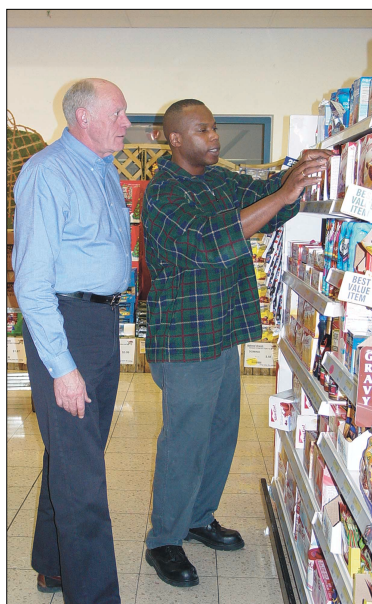
For Commissary Manager Jim Holzhauser, it was never an option when it came to his career choice. He grew up in the grocery business and worked during his high school years for his father, a grocery-store owner in Wichita, Ks.

He says, "I like the challenge. It changes every day, and it's mainly satisfying customers and taking care of them. What's normal today is not tomorrow. It's a changing world in the food industry with more challenges in grocery business than other retailers."

He is well known for his customer and community support. Deflecting any praise, Holzhauser says, "We do what we can to help the military families in Hohenfels."

Holzhauser and his staff can give a little extra thanks to generous contributions by local food industry brokers. Some of the local brokers include Kraft Foods, S&K Sales and Webco (Frito-Lay and Amour).

He also works with local command sergeant majors to distribute to local military families in need. Over the holidays, food broker C. Lloyd Johnson donated more than 30 turkeys to the community.



**Manager Jim Holzhauser works with Scott Harmon, grocery department manager, on a stocking issue.**

The store also helps a variety of community groups like the Girl Scouts or the Wives Clubs.

The commissary also offers \$1,500 in scholarships for military children.

And if you think commissary employees are off on Mondays, think again. Monday for them is, "cleanup and restock day" or, "maintenance day" as Holzhauser describes it.

In other words, it takes seven days a week to get all the work done.

#### Hohenfels vs Wuerzburg

Holzhauser worked as a deputy for the Wuerzburg Commissary before coming to Hohenfels. He noted several differences between that large store and Hohenfels. For starters, Hohenfels has half the staff than in a bigger store. In a small store, you do everything from unloading trucks to stocking, working produce, or handling customer complaints, though he noted that, fortunately, there are few of those.

A smaller store doesn't carry

the variety that a larger store does. With that in mind, Hohenfels sometimes buys a case of a product a customer has requested, but doesn't make the customer buy the whole case.

In a small store, the staff also gets to know the customers more.

#### Award winners

Holzhauser's enthusiasm has helped the store rack up some awards over the years.

In 2003, produce manager Erika Thomas placed third in Produce Merchandising for Best Small OCONUS stores. The previous year, the store placed second.

The store won Best Small

Merchandising Award for 2002 and was recognized for achieving the Best Safety for Small Store in Europe. The store has been accident free for two years.

Coca Cola also awarded the commissary in 2002 and 2003 for their displays.

And the recognition was achieved during a time of unprecedented growth by the Hohenfels Commissary. In 2000, they were a size B store – today they are a C store. The largest store in Germany is a D.

And, yes, whatever the future brings, Holzhauser and his staff plan to keep on satisfying their customers.



photos by Gerry Arbios

**Two years ago, Manager Jim Holzhauser set up an art contest for Hohenfels High School students in order to brighten up the store.**

## Best of the best



photo by Kevin Young

Before boarding their flight to Operation Iraqi Freedom, the 2nd Battalion 2nd Infantry of Vilseck presented five NCOs with certificates of membership in the U.S. Army Europe's Sgt. Morales Club.

In a ceremony held before the assembled NCOs of the Ramrod battalion and their brigade and battalion commanders and sergeants major on Feb. 13, the battalion ac-

knowledgeed the excellence achieved by Staff Sgt. Matthew Stromitis of Company A, Staff Sgt. Albert Harris of HHC, Staff Sgt. Alvarado Esteban of HHC, Staff Sgt. Eric Rombach of HHC and Staff Sgt. Jason Laser of HHC.

The five new members of the Sgt. Morales Club were also presented Army Commendation Medals at that time.

## Vipers bid farewell to NCOIC

STORY AND PHOTO BY GERRY ARBIOS  
282ND BSB PAO

Most AFN television viewers recognize him as a grumpy old sergeant chewing out a Soldier for safety violations on commercials, but that ain't no Hollywood actor. Master Sgt. John Cavanaugh has been a mainstay of the Combined Maneuver Training Center's Viper (photo and video) team in Hohenfels since July 1998.

He is retiring from the Army after 26 years of service and has been nominated for the Legion of Merit.

Cavanaugh leaves his position as NCOIC of the VIPERS with the respect of the Soldiers he guided on a day-to-day basis. These Soldiers and other friends from the community filled the Great Escape Jan. 23 to say good-bye.



John Cavanaugh

During his Hohenfels tour, Cavanaugh has seen lots of action in the Box. Besides having more than ten MRX under his belt, he has worked for four VIPER 07s and trained many Soldiers. He said he enjoyed his time with the camera crew, and leaves with many good memories.

He remembers a time when a *Rolling Stones* reporter followed him around for three days as he was working a story on cadets who came here to train. The story turned out to

be very positive. Doing the AFN commercials, such as one on the hazards of sleeping in one's vehicle, was another career highlight.

One of the big changes Cavanaugh saw during his career was the change from film photography to digital. He now owns all digital camera gear.



Hohenfels hoops highlights

Basketball championship

Get ready for some slam-dunks and quick rebounds! The top girls’ junior basketball teams are coming to Hohenfels next month to compete in the U.S. Forces European Basketball Championship.

The event kicks off at 12:30 p.m. March 12 in the Post Gym and continues through March 14. A dinner will take place at 7 p.m. March 12 at the Great Escape.

For more information, call Jerry Mayhew at 466-2488.

Winners announced

Hohenfels crowned several individual winners during activities held in conjunction with the Super Bowl.

Troy Mason won the Men’s 9-Pin No-Tap Tournament during the Super Bowl Party, and Suzanne Peoples won the Women’s 8-Pin No-Tap Tournament.

In other Super Bowl action, Calvin Clark defeated nine other contestants to claim the title of Madden Ultimate Champion.

Hohenfels basketball

Hohenfels kicked off the Unit-

Level Basketball Championship on Feb. 4.

The first game saw HHC, 1-4th Infantry defeat the Provost Marshall’s Office, 32-24. In the next game, B Co., 1-4th Inf. and HHC, CMTC were tied at the end of regulation at 32 apiece. In overtime, B Co. came out on top, 48-45. HHC, 1-4th Inf. and the Health Clinic had an overtime thriller. At the buzzer, HHC, 1-4th hit a shot for a 46-45 win.

The last game of the evening was the loser’s bracket pitting the PMO against CMTC. CMTC jumped out to a 8-1 lead just three minutes into the game and never looked back. They held on for a 30-18 win.

On Friday, the two 1-4th Inf. teams, B Co. and HHC, faced off for the championship.

HHC came out running, catching B Co. off guard. HHC beat B Co. 36 - 15. The “IF” game had to be played to determine the first-place team that would represent Hohenfels in the 100th ASG Championship. The second game was a bit different. B Co started pressing from the tip-off and in the end came out on top 35 - 27.

Vilseck and Grafenwoehr sports

Hunting course

A hunting course will start on Monday, Mar. 8 and run through Apr. 18 in Grafenwoehr.

The cost is \$100, which includes registration and proctor fees. Range and ammunition fees are extra and need to be paid on weapons training days to be scheduled throughout the course.

Hunter candidates must pass a written examination, verbal examination by the test proctor and hunting instructors, and a practical phase shooting rifle at a stationary target at 100 meters and trap.

If you would like to register, contact Dale Doeden at Grafenwoehr Outdoor Recreation, 475-7402.

Community basketball

The 409th BSB women’s team ended the season by going undefeated in the New Year.

They took another “W” on the road at Bamberg winning 55-50 in a close match. Marcie Bennett scored 20 points; Erica Winkle added 11 points and both Toya Sebree and Rubina Finley scored 10 points. Due to the forfeit of Kitzingen on Feb. 8, the women finished their 2003/2004 campaign 5-2, second place in the southern division. Stuttgart stands at 5-1 with

a game to play against Bad Aibling on Feb. 21 which could impact the final standings, since Vilseck lost to Bad Aibling in December.

The men lost a heartbreaker 74-71 after going to the locker room at halftime tied 32-32. Donal Sarate scored 23 points, Theo Morris added 21 points and Jay Sebree contributed 14 in the losing effort. With a forfeit from Kitzingen, the men’s season ended at 3-4 and probably won’t be part of post-season play.

Indoor soccer championship

The Heidelberg Generals, a local national team, won the German/American Super Soccer Bowl held at Graf Field House Feb. 7-8.

Heidelberg recorded a 5-0-1 record enroute to the title. The Vilseck team went 2-4 on the final weekend of the tournament and settled for fifth place.

‘Get Fit’ changes days

The days and times for “Operation Get Fit” are changed to the first and third Fridays of each month at the Rose Barracks Fitness Center.

The program will be offered from 6 – 8 p.m. combining Spinning, Kickboxing and Aerobics in back-to-back-to-back classes.

There will not be any Spinning or

kickboxing classes during the day in Vilseck on “Operation Get Fit” Fridays any more.

Childcare is available through an FCC provider and may be free for those with a deployed spouse. Contact the staff at the fitness center at DSN 476-2998/2214 or civ. 09662-83-2998/2214.

Yoga Vilseck

Sarah Fogle is conducting Yoga classes at the Rose Barracks Fitness Center on Mondays at 3:30 p.m. As the demand for this class increases, more classes will be offered.

Contact Fred Cohen or Sarah Fogle at 476-2214 for information.

Adult Karate Instruction

Adult Karate classes are available in Grafenwoehr from 5:30-7 p.m. on Thursdays and on Fridays in Vilseck from 7-8:30 p.m.

The six-week classes cost \$36. Individual sessions will no longer be available. Contact either the Grafenwoehr Fieldhouse at 475-8361 or the Hilltop Fitness Center at 476-2270 for more information.

Therapeutic Massage

Emily Dolan Gordon offers massage therapy at the Graf Field House.

Call 475-8361 or 09641-83-8361 to schedule an appointment.



# now playing ....

Movies start at 7 p.m. unless otherwise specified. Movies are subject to change by local theaters. Theaters are closed Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

<b>Vilseck, Mike Jurkewicz</b> (Tele: 09662-83-1790)		7--The Butterfly Effect (R)
Fri, Feb. 20	Barbershop 2: Back In Business (PG-13)	Thu, Feb. 26 Missing (PG-13)
Sat, Feb. 21	Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World (R)	Fri, Feb. 27 The Big Bounce (PG-13)
Sun, Feb. 22	4 p.m.--Good Boy (PG)	Sat, Feb. 28 Dr. Seuss: The Cat In The Hat (PG)
	7--Torque (PG-13)	Sun, Feb. 29 4--Radio (PG)
Mon, Feb. 23	The Missing (PG-13)	7--The Big Bounce (PG-13)
Tue, Feb. 24	Timeline (PG-13)	
Wed, Feb. 25	Honey (PG-13)	
Thu, Feb. 26	Timeline (PG-13)	
Fri, Feb. 27	50 First Dates (PG-13)	
Sat, Feb. 28	Tupac (PG)	
Sun, Feb. 29	4--The Haunted Mansion (PG)	
	7--The Butterfly Effect (R)	
Mon, Mar. 1	The Last Samurai (R)	
<b>Hohenfels, General Patton</b> (Tele: 09472-83-1790)		
Fri, Feb. 20	The Butterfly Effect (R)	
Sat, Feb. 21	Looney Tunes: Back In Action (PG)	
Sun, Feb. 22	4--Brother Bear (G)	
<b>Grafenwoehr, Camp Aachen</b> (Tele: 09641-83-6115)		
Camp Aachen Theater open on a limited basis. Listen to AFN-Bavaria for show times.		
<b>Grafenwoehr, Tower</b> (Tele : 09641-83-1790)		
Fri, Feb. 20	The Big Bounce (PG-13)	
Sat, Feb. 21	Dr. Suess: The Cat In The Hat (PG)	
Sun, Feb. 22	Love Actually (PG)	
Thu, Feb. 26	The Butterfly Effect (R)	
Fri, Feb. 27	Barbershop 2: Back In Business (R)	
Sat, Feb. 28	Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World (R)	
Sun, Feb. 29	Timeline (PG-13)	

## Murphy



## movie reviews

### Under the Tuscan Sun (PG-13)

Frances Mayes is a 35-year-old San Francisco writer whose perfect life has just taken an unexpected detour. Her recent divorce has left her with terminal writer's block and extremely depressed. Her best friend, Patti, is beginning to think that she might never recover. "Dr. Patti's" prescription: 10 days in Tuscany.



Photo by Touchstone Pictures  
After restarting her life in Tuscany, Frances (Diane Lane, left) falls for a handsome antiques dealer named Marcello (Raoul Bova, right) in "Under the Tuscan Sun."

It's there, on a whim, that Frances purchases a villa named Bramasole—literally, "something that yearns for the sun." The home needs much restoration, but what better place for a new beginning than the home of the Renaissance?

As she flings herself into her new life at the villa in the lush Italian countryside, Frances makes new friends among her neighbors; but in the quiet moments, she is fearful that her ambitions for her new life—and new family—may not be realized, until a chance encounter in Rome throws Frances into the arms of an intriguing Portobello antiques dealer named Marcello. Even as she stumbles forward on her uncertain journey, one thing becomes clear: in life, there are second chances.

### The Missing (PG-13)

Set in 1886 New Mexico, Maggie Gilkeson is a young woman who is raising her two daughters in an isolated and lawless wilderness.

When her oldest daughter is kidnapped by a psychopathic killer with mystical powers, Maggie is forced to re-unite with her long estranged father to rescue her. The killer and his brutal cult of desperados have kidnapped several other teenage girls, leaving a trail of death and horror across the desolate landscape of the American Southwest.

Maggie and her father are in a race against time to catch up with the renegades and save her daughter, before they cross the Mexican border and disappear forever.



Photo by Columbia Pictures  
Tommy Lee Jones plays a grandfather desperately chasing his granddaughter's kidnapper in "The Missing."



Photo by Universal Studios  
Andrew Lincoln sends a message in Love Actually.

### Love Actually (PG-13)

Everywhere you look, love is causing chaos. From the bachelor Prime Minister of the United Kingdom who, on his first day at 10 Downing Street, falls in love with the girl who brings him his tea, to a hopeless sandwich delivery guy who doesn't think he has a chance with the girls in the U.K., so he heads for Wisconsin.

From aging rock stars, to a stony headmistress, to a monolingual Portuguese housemaid—love arrives in many forms, shapes and sizes.

Love Actually features ten separate—but intertwining—stories of love all lead up to a big climax on Christmas Eve, proving that love is the driving force in all of these people's lives.

The film stars an outstanding cast with Hugh Grant, Alan Rickman, Emma Thompson, Liam Neeson, Colin Firth, Laura Linney, Bill Nighy, Keira Knightley, Martine McCutcheon, and Rowan Atkinson.

### Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World

The movie is set during the Napoleonic Wars.

Russell Crowe stars as Captain "Lucky" Jack Aubrey, renowned as a fighting captain in the British Navy, and Paul Bettany is ship's doctor Stephen Maturin.

Their ship, the H.M.S. Surprise, is suddenly attacked by a superior enemy. With the Surprise badly damaged and much of the crew

injured, Aubrey is torn between duty and friendship as he pursues a high-stakes chase across two oceans, to intercept and capture his foe. It's a mission that can make his reputation—or destroy Lucky Jack and his crew.

In the course of the epic journey, the movie travels the world. This is the first film to shoot in the Galapagos Islands.

